

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 22 August 2005 (22.08.05);
original claims 1 and 4-18 replaced by amended claims 1 and 4-14;
remaining claims unchanged]

1. A memory card connector (34), comprising:

an insulative housing (36) having a terminal-mounting section (36a) which mounts a plurality of conductive terminals (44) having contact portions (44a) for engaging appropriate contacts on a memory card (60) and which at least in part defines a card-receiving cavity (40) for receiving the memory card;

a card eject mechanism (46) including a slider (50) movably mounted on the housing and engageable with the memory card for movement therewith into and out of the cavity between an inserted connection position and a withdrawal position;

a slide lock member (52) mounted on the connector, independent of the eject mechanism, and engageable with the slider to hold the slider in said inserted connection position;

an ejection control member (54) mounted on the connector for releasing the slide lock member from engagement with the slider to allow the slider and memory card to be ejected;

a metal shell (38) mounted on the housing (36) and combining therewith to define said cavity (40) having a front insertion opening (42) to permit insertion and withdrawal of the memory card into and out of the connector, said slide lock member (52) being on the metal shell;

the slide lock member (52) comprising a cantilevered spring arm integral with the metal shell (38) and moveable in a direction perpendicular to a plane of the card receiving cavity (40).

2. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said terminal-mounting section (36a) of the housing (36) is a rear section and including at least one side wall section (36b) of the housing extending forwardly from one end of the rear section, said card eject mechanism (46) and said ejection control member (54) being on said side wall section.

3. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said card eject mechanism (46), said slide lock member (52) and said ejection control member (54) form a push/push mechanism, whereby a first push on the memory card (60) moves the memory card and slider (50) to said inserted connection position, the slide lock member being located to hold the slider at said position, and a second push on the ejection control member (54) releases the

slide lock member from engagement with the slider to allow the slider and memory card to be ejected.

4. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said shell (38) is stamped and formed from sheet metal material and the slide lock member (52) is stamped and formed therefrom.

5. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said slide lock member comprises a spring arm (52) having a lock portion (52c) engageable with a lock shoulder (50d) on the slider (50) automatically as the slider and memory card (60) are moved to said inserted connection position.

6. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said ejection control member (54) is mounted alongside the card eject mechanism (46) for movement generally parallel to the movement of the slider (60).

7. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said ejection control member (54) includes a manually engageable portion (54e) outside the housing (36).

8. The memory card connector of claim 7, including biasing means (64) for biasing the ejection control member (54) to a retracted inoperative position.

9. A memory card connector (34), comprising:
an insulative housing (36) having a rear terminal-mounting section (36a) which mounts a plurality of conductive terminals (44) having contact portions (44a) for engaging appropriate contacts on a memory card (60), and at least one side wall section (36b) extending forwardly from one end of the rear section;
a metal shell (38) mounted on the housing and combining therewith to define a card-receiving cavity (40) having a front insertion opening (42) to permit insertion and withdrawal of the memory card;
a card eject mechanism (46) including a slider (50) movably mounted on the side wall section of the housing and engageable with the memory card for movement therewith into

and out of the cavity between an inserted connection position and a withdrawal position;

a slide lock member (52) integral with the metal shell comprising a cantilevered spring arm moveable in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the card receiving cavity (40) and engageable with the slider to hold the slider in said inserted connection position; and

an ejection control member (54) mounted along the side wall section of the housing for releasing the slide lock member from engagement with the slider to allow the slider and memory card to be ejected;

whereby the connector becomes a push/push type connector, with a first push of the memory card (60) and the slider (50) moves the memory card to said inserted connection position and a second push of the ejection control member (54) moves the slide lock member (52) out of engagement with the slider.

10. The memory card connector of claim 12 wherein said shell (38) is stamped and formed from sheet metal material and the slide lock member (52) is stamped and formed therefrom.

11. The memory card connector of claim 9 wherein said cantilevered spring arm (52) has a lock portion (52c) engageable with a lock shoulder (50d) on the slider (50) automatically as the slider and memory card (60) are moved to said inserted connection position.

12. The memory card connector of claim 9 wherein said ejection control member (54) is mounted alongside the card eject mechanism (46) for movement generally parallel to the movement of the slider (60).

13. The memory card connector of claim 12 wherein said ejection control member (54) includes a manually engageable portion (54e) outside the housing (36).

14. The memory card connector of claim 13, including biasing means (64) for biasing the ejection control member (54) to a retracted inoperative position.